

REMARKS

The Office action mailed on 27 June 2005 (Paper No. 62305) has been carefully considered.

Claims 1 thru 17 are pending in the application. No claim amendments are made by this Response.

In paragraph 2 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 thru 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102 for alleged anticipation by Murayama *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,879,841. For the reasons stated below, it is submitted that the invention recited in the claims is distinguishable from the prior art cited by the Examiner so as to preclude rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103.

The present invention relates to a method for extending print area when printing with an inkjet printer. As pointed out in the specification, an inkjet printer has a problem that is not experienced with dot printers and laser printers (see paragraphs [0004] thru [0006] of the specification). That is, since printing in an inkjet printer is performed after paper passes through an exit roller and moves to a printhead, the exit roller holds the lower end of the paper to the end thereof and ejects the paper before the set low end margin. Therefore, a large-width lower end margin is necessary, and the printable area becomes smaller. As a result, documents created by a user can be cut off at the lower end

during printing with the ink jet printer.

The present invention provides a method for extending print area so that cutoff of such documents does not occur when printing with an ink jet printer. That is, according to the present invention, since the printable area becomes larger because the lower end margin of the ink jet printer can be reduced to the level of the upper end margin, documents created by a user, such as CAD drawings, graphics and charts, can be printed without being cut off (see paragraph [0032] of the specification).

Murayama *et al.* '841 discloses a method for preparing multi-composed images without use of a photocomposer. More specifically, the patent discloses “a method of preparing multi-composed images by laying out identical images” (emphasis supplied - quoting from column 1, lines 52-53 of the patent). The first step of the disclosed method comprises “specifying a unit image area, in which a unit image is to be printed” (emphasis supplied - quoting from column 1, lines 54-55 of the patent). The third step of the disclosed method comprises “laying out a plurality of copies of the unit image area on an image plane” (quoting from column 1, lines 58-59 of the patent), while the fifth step comprises “generating an image recording signal representing a plurality of unit images to be reproduced in the plurality of unit image areas” (quoting from column 1, lines 64-66 of the patent).

Since the disclosed method is described as laying out identical images (*see* the first quotation from column 1, lines 52-53 of the patent cited above), it is clear that the fifth step involves the reproduction of identical unit images in the plurality of unit image areas (*see* the last quotation from column 1, lines 64-66 of the patent cited above). This is entirely different from the claimed invention which involves two distinct print steps for printing first and second portions, respectively, of an image (as opposed to printing of identical images in a plurality of unit image areas, as disclosed in Murayama *et al.* '841).

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 1, the recited method comprises two distinct print steps for printing first and second portions, respectively, of an image. In contrast, as stated above, Murayama *et al.* '841 prints identical images in multiple image unit areas.

With respect to independent claims 6, that claim recites a process in which two distinct images are individually developed, and are sent individually to the printer in two distinct steps (steps (a) and (b) of claim 6). In contrast, Murayama *et al.* '841 does not disclose or suggest the development of two distinct images, and the separate transmission of those images to a printer in two distinct steps.

Finally, independent claim 11 recites the invention in terms of the separate formation of first and second images which are then printed in sequence by the printer

(see step (d) of claim 11). In contrast, Murayama *et al.* '841 does not disclose or suggest the specifically recited process by which the first and second images are developed, and does not disclose or suggest the sequential printing of the two images by the printer.

In paragraph 2 of the Office action, the Examiner cites the expanded area generating means 126 and column 5, lines 21-51 of Murayama *et al.* '841 as disclosing the claimed method. However, the patent does not disclose or suggest the separate print steps and lower end margin recited in claim 1, the separate transmissions to a printer and the lower end margin recited in claim 6, and the separate formation of first and second images representing separate portions of an image, and the portions to be printed above and within a lower end margin of paper, as recited in claim 11.

Furthermore, not only does Murayama *et al.* '841 not disclose the claimed method, but also Murayama *et al.* '841 does not suggest the claimed method. In this regard, it should be noted that the Office action does not set forth in any detail a correspondence between the recited steps of the claimed method, on the one hand, and elements or textual portions of Murayama *et al.* '841, on the other hand. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103 is not supported by the content of the Office action.

Finally, the dependent claims provide further bases for distinguishing the invention from the prior art. For example, *see* claims 2 thru 5, 7 thru 10 and 12 thru 17.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and early issuance thereof is solicited. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

No fee is incurred by this Response.

Respectfully submitted,



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